GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:270
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2000
ENCROACHMENT ON DEFENCE LAND
A. VENKATESH NAIK;GADDE RAMAMOHAN

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi High Court has reportedly sought explanation from the Government in regard to the encroachment on the Defence land by the `mafia` as published in `Jansatta` dated July 18, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated area of land encroached upon by various `mafias` as on date; and

(d) the steps being taken to get the Defence land vacated?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 270 FOR 10.8.2000

Dr. B.L. Wadehra filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the High Court of Delhi praying for issue of directions to the Government to take effective steps to recover the encroached Defence lands all over the country. No directions have, however, been received from the Honourable Court in this regard.

An estimated area of 13786.86 acres of defence land is under encroachment / illegal occupation by various individuals / organisations / State Governments. Directions have been issued to Director General Defence Estates and Service Headquarters to take action for removal of encroachments under the provisions of Cantonment Act, 1924 and Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. The process of detection and removal is a continuing exercise. Some of the encroachments are under litigation and hence their removal is subject to court orders.